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Listening Tour Scheduled by Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The Commission on Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will hold a "Listening Tour" with meetings in four locations in January and February.

The Commission was established by Governor Martin O'Malley on September 23 to develop recommendations about the types of training standards that Maryland should adopt to educate people who interact with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) — particularly those in public sector positions such as law enforcement officials, paramedics and other first responders — about the best approaches for safely managing situations involving individuals with IDD.

The Commission has announced the Listening Tour so it can hear from the public about working towards the goal of more effective inclusion for individuals with IDD. The Commission is inviting people with disabilities, family members, disability organizations and other interested individuals to take part in its public sessions. The topics the commission hopes to discuss are:

- What do law enforcement personnel and other first responders in Maryland need to know when working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- What training should Maryland provide for law enforcement personnel and other first responders?
- What kinds of community outreach activities should law enforcement personnel and other first responders conduct in order to raise awareness about effective first responder approaches for interacting with people with IDD?
- The Commission is proposing a community inclusion model in order to improve understanding and effective interactions between first responders and other public agencies that have frequent contact with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. It welcomes comments from members of the public who have ideas about what would work to create a more inclusive community for all.

EDITORS: The list of locations and dates for the listening tour is attached.

GOCCP is on social media. You can find us on <http://www.twitter.com/goccp> and on Facebook as [goccpmd](#).

Listening Tour: Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

January 16, 2014: Silver Spring, MD

Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center
7995 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD
6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

January 28, 2014: Catonsville, MD

Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville Campus
800 S. Rolling Rd.
Baltimore, MD
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

February 10, 2014: Easton, MD

Talbot County Community Center
10028 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

February 22, 2014: Frederick County, MD

The Arc of Frederick County
620 Research Ct.
Frederick, MD
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Editors: For additional information, contact Bill Toohey, btoohey@goccp.state.md.us

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